

## **VILLAGE OF DINSMORE**

### **Sewer Maintenance Policy**

#### **Why Sewer Lines Backup**

Many items may become lodged in the sewer line that may result in a backup – sticks, rocks, pieces of broken pipe, grease, oil, plastic, fats, and grease are major contributors. Resident users should NEVER discard fats, oil or grease into any drain. Baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, and feminine products should not be flushed down toilets.

#### **Preventing Sewer Backup**

A gate valve or backwater valve is recommended on every fixture drain connected to a building drain, or a branch when the fixture is located below the level of the adjoining street.

This device, when properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewer backup into the residence. The install and maintenance are the owner's responsibility.

### **PURPOSE**

This policy will clarify who is responsible for sewage blockages and for maintenance, repair and replacement of the water & sewer lines, with guidelines to make this decision fairly.

Secondary purpose is to protect and maintain the sewer infrastructure from deteriorating.

Pursuant to Section 30 of the Municipalities Act (M-36.1, 2005) Liability for damage to public utility service,

Any person who causes any loss, damage or injury to any public utility service provided by a municipality or to any property used in providing the public utility service, whether owned by the municipality or not, is liable to the owner for that loss, damage or injury.

**Therefore, any person who tampers with and causes any loss, damage, injury, or tampers with any public utility service provided by a municipality or to any property used in providing the public utility service, whether owned by the municipality or not, is liable to the owner for that loss, damage or injury.**

**Village of Dinsmore Water and Sewer Management Bylaw 5-2011 (2)** states that the Village shall not be liable for damages to persons, property, articles or premises due to failure of the water supply system through natural causes or breakdown in the water system *nor* for shutting off water to repair mains and equipment. **Village of Dinsmore Bylaw 5-2011 (3)** states that the costs for damage, repair or replacement to the water or sewer system shall be borne by the owner or occupant and collected in like manner as water and sewer rates.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the Municipalities Act (M-36.1, 2005)

- (1) The owner of a parcel of land is responsible for the construction, maintenance, repair and replacement of a service connection of a public utility located above, on or under the parcel, unless otherwise determined by the municipality.
- (7) The costs incurred by a municipality relating to the construction, maintenance, repair or replacement and restoration pursuant to this section are an amount owing to the municipality by the owner of the parcel of land, unless otherwise determined by the municipality.

### Village of Dinsmore Responsibility

The Village of Dinsmore will assist property owners in maintaining their sewer lines and monitoring the need for re-lining/replacement of sewer lines.

The Village of Dinsmore is responsible for maintenance and repair of the service line located on public property when the blockage is caused by any of the following:

- Physical pipe failures, faulty installations, or settlements on public property; or
- Tree roots from trees originating on public property.

The Village is responsible for the large water & sewer main pipes in the road, as well as the lateral for water from the main to the curb stop (usually located on the property line). *The lateral for sewer is the responsibility of the property owner from the house to the sewer main.*

The Village is responsible for sewer mains and manholes which are located under maintained roads. *Property owners are responsible for maintaining lateral sewer lines.*

- Sewer lateral is the pipe line between the village main line and the building. The sewer lateral is owned and maintained by the property owner, including any part that may extend into the street or right of way.

The responsibility for maintenance and repairs to service lines will be determined by investigation conducted by the Foreman and/or various contractor maintenance reports, property history, and video inspections of the service line.

If there is a history of blockages in the section of the main line that experienced the blockage, the Foreman will investigate further by conducting a video inspection of the line. Foreman will determine the likelihood of potential problems in the future with the main line and make recommendations as to the repair or maintenance of the main line.

If it is determined that the responsibility for repairs or maintenance is that of both the property owner and the Village of Dinsmore, the Village will attempt to coordinate a repair or maintenance plan that is amicable to both parties.

### Property Owner Responsibility

The property owner will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the entire lateral service line between their building and the sanitary sewer main in the street. If you rent your home, contact your landlord or property owner to discuss any repairs.

### Policy

When a property owner has a sewer problem:

1. Contact the Village Office – **FAILURE TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE PRIOR TO WORK BEGINNING MAY NEGATE THE REIMBURSEMENT PORTION OF THIS POLICY.**
2. Town Foreman will arrange with property owner to camera the line to determine the source of the problem.
3. Property owner is required to sign the Residential Visit Form at the time of inspection.
4. Village employees will attempt to alleviate the problem.

If a blockage is deemed to be tree roots from boulevard trees, the Village will reimburse *up to* \$250 per year per civic address for a private contractor from the Village of Dinsmore preferred contractor list. Contractors are required to supply pictures (date stamped) and detailed distances, with the invoice to the *property owner* for inspection by the Village.

After the first inspection, if the problem cannot be solved through this process, the Village of Dinsmore will give the property owner the option that that Village will initiate the repair of the lateral sewer line *at the owner's expense*.

- Re-lining the lateral line is encouraged as the first choice for repair as it does not disturb the street, sidewalk, or yard of the property.
- Excavating the line will only be done if re-lining is deemed inappropriate or unavailable.

If the camera inspection shows the problem originated from the Village's main line, and if Public Works verifies the results with footage from the camera inspection shows that the blockage is found to be in the Village's main line, then the homeowner shall be advised that it is within their rights to submit the plumbing bill to the Village for reimbursement.

**The Village will only offer reimbursement option to property owners with accounts in good standing.**

### **Insurance**

Property owners are encouraged to check with their insurance provider regarding policies that will cover replacement costs for sewer laterals and sewer backups.

  
Mayor Harvey Lonsberry

  
Administrator Jodie Beattie Flath

Revised document passed by resolution on January 15th, 2024

(SEAL)

